



# St John's School Newsletter

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## Principal's Page:

Nau mai haere mai

My goodness, here we are at the end of term 2! This has been a very busy term for our teaching staff as we have worked to prepare the reports and portfolios for your children. There is a lot of work in each of these and I know that our teachers really think carefully about your child and how they can best support their academic learning and social development.

My term has been unique as I have had the opportunity to head down to the principal's office and drink coffee (well, that is what I tell my class) as I have followed in Susan's footsteps and experienced life as a teaching principal in a small school. This has been an interesting opportunity that has made me realise what a busy place this is and has certainly broadened my skill set. I have been really well supported by our teaching staff and I thank them for this. We warmly welcome Mrs. Mulholland back at the start of the term. The children will be excited to see her and I know she is looking forward to reconnecting with you all.

### Matariki

We have celebrated Matariki with special activities being run by each of the teachers today. I hope the children will have enjoyed these and expanded their knowledge of the Maori New Year which heralds a time for remembrance, joy and peace. Mrs. Elworthy has created a beautiful star just inside the hallway door from an activity we did in Faith Focus last week.

### Maniototo Cross Country

This is being held on Monday 30th August, with the postponement day being Tuesday 31st August. All children will compete in this and we will prepare them at school. This is a house competition for us, and everyone who finishes gains points towards this. Currently 'McAuley House' is leading after the Swimming Sports - will the Crosscountry even this up?

### Wig Wednesday

This year we are supporting the Cancer Society by participating in 'Wig Wednesday'. We will be holding a mufti day on Wednesday 8th September and encouraging our children to come to school with wacky hairdos or to wear a wig. We are choosing this option as when children undergo cancer treatment, they often need to brave the world with no hair.

On the day, we will be asking the children to bring a gold coin donation. You can also support us online by making a donation.

To do this please follow these prompts.

1. Go to the Cancer Society page or use the link below
2. <https://wigwednesday.org.nz/>
3. Search St John's School
4. Make your online donation.

Our fundraising goal is \$120.

## Special Character Clipboard:

Thank you to the PTA and parents that attended our school mass for St John the Baptist Feast Day. This was a great celebration and the children were outstanding. Our junior class looked very much the part dressed up in their sacks and sandals, their locusts and doves are still on display in the church. The middle room did a wonderful mime of the birth of St John and the seniors acted out his baptism with enthusiasm. Our singing was joyful and thank you to Anna Jeffries for getting us set up with this aspect. We simply had a great time.

The nachos for lunch were delicious. Thank you to the PTA and school parents who helped make that come together. What a great wee school we have, our faith and community spirit are strong.

Dear Lord,  
Thank you for this holiday,  
an extra chance for fun and play.  
There is so much I can learn and do  
Even if I'm not in school.

All the beauty and gifts abound.  
The world you created is all around.  
Today's a chance to go explore,  
Try new things, and discover more.

I'll miss my teacher and my friends  
Just as happens on weekends.  
But I know that for today,  
I'm thankful for this holiday.



## **Junior Class News:**

I cannot believe we are in week 10 already. This term has absolutely flown by and I have thoroughly enjoyed teaching the Junior class and being part of St John's School.

Since our last newsletter we have, each day, been greeting and saying goodbye to each other in different languages, which the children have enjoyed.

I have hidden a smurf in the classroom each morning and the children have to quietly find this without telling their peers. Some find it easier than others to keep the secret!

St John the Baptist Day was a celebration and all of the children did themselves proud.



We have been learning about Matariki and the meaning behind the 9 stars. Friday will see a culmination for this work, so look out next term for what I am sure will be some pretty amazing art work on display.

This has been a busy term with sport for many as well, but all children have coped and had a smile on their faces each day.

Thank you Junior children for allowing me to teach you this term. I have had such a fun time with you all. You are all Super Stars.

Have a relaxing and well deserved holiday.

Erin Elworthy

## Middle Class News:

Kia Ora, what a crazy few weeks, I can't believe we are at the end of term two. We have been super busy in the classroom the last couple of weeks. Last week we all created our farm safety slogans, and discussed the importance of farm safety. They were able to identify key safety messages.



Students in class have been learning about Matariki and the importance of celebrating this.

There will be some changes made to the oral language homework. I have been given some feedback and I am looking to adapt it. Next term I will be trying something new and I will share this with you in the first week back.

On the topic of oral language, some students have been silly and laugh inappropriately at students while they are presenting. The students know this behaviour is unacceptable and I am discouraging this type of behaviour in my classroom. All students are aware of this as I know it takes a lot of courage to stand up in front of your peers and the whole class.

It has been a fantastic term getting to know the students. I am so lucky to have an awesome group of students to teach.

I hope you all have a safe holiday, and I look forward to seeing you all fresh and ready for a new term.

Nga Mihi  
Bailey Smith

## Senior Class News:

*Don't count the days - make the days count.*

Kia ora koutou,

### Keeping Ourselves Safe

Miss Flintoff shared this photo that she took while Constable Garry Milford taught the class. We have appreciated him sharing his knowledge with us over the two sessions when he visited the school. I would also like to thank Miss Flintoff and Mrs. Hazlett for their work in the senior class over this term.



### Balmoral Book Bonanza

In term 3, we will be starting work on this activity. The end prize is a voucher to the Balmoral Dairy for hot chips.

#### **Balmoral Book Bonanza**

**Goal - to complete this by the year end so you can receive your voucher for hot chips at the Balmoral Dairy!**

#### **How to present: Different ways to choose from ...**

- On paper to Mrs Duncan (or in person).
- Some activities can be presented to the class - see Mrs. Duncan to make time to do this.
- You could make a google slide for each activity (one per book) and add it to the google slide document and let Mrs D know.
- Use online tools to help you - Google docs / forms / drawing etc.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Fiction (made up)</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Novels, myths, legends, fables, fairy tales.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Non Fiction (true)</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Biographies, Autobiographies, newspaper or magazine articles, recipes, instruction booklets.</p>
<p><b>Read 3 (this number is negotiable) fiction books and complete 3 different activities (only one per book).</b></p>	<p><b>Read 3 non-fiction books and complete 3 different activities (only one per book).</b></p>
<p>Get some friends together and act out a scene (part of the story). You can record this on an ipad or present it live!</p>	<p>Make something related to what you have read.</p>
<p>Make a wanted poster for a main character - include details such as their name, personality and what they have done.</p>	<p>Make a fact page related to a topic from the book</p>
<p>Give an oral book review to the class.</p>	<p>Make a glossary of 8 new terms that you learned in this book.</p>
<p>Design a new title and cover page.</p>	<p>Do an oral book review to the class</p>
<p>Create an author information page.</p>	<p>Create an author information page.</p>
<p>Poetry - recite a poem for the class or Mrs. Duncan.</p>	<p>Design a new title and cover page.</p>
<p>Make a page of your favourite quotes from the story including who said them.</p>	<p>Create a questionnaire on the topic.</p>

### **Fitness focus for term 3**

This week the children have been doing some data gathering on their current fitness. During term 3, we will complete weekly training and then retest at the end of the term, to see what changes we have made.

During term 3, the children will need sneakers at school every day and they can bring exercise clothing to wear if they wish. We will be doing running, ranging from the school lap, to the block and to the cross country course as well as tabata and interval training.

In preparation for this, I will be starting to go for small runs during the holiday. Your child may wish to do the same.

Our training is working towards three long term goals

- a. The Maniototo Cross-country which is at the start of week 6. I expect all children to participate in this and to finish.
- b. Class orienteering at Naseby in week 10.
- c. Walking the Rob Roy glacier track in term 4.

This training will also be supported by the learning we will do in our puberty unit around caring and respecting our bodies.

### **Mathletic Gold Certificates**

Congratulations to Chloe McAuley and Tessa Steele for achieving their 20th certificate! I'm so pleased that they have reached this goal. They have both also completed all of the green bar activities and completely finished the Mathletic programme. What an outstanding effort! Completing Mathletics comes with a big Banqer bonus of \$20,000.

### **Young Vinnies**

We held our first committee meeting this week and have gathered a variety of ideas together. In term 3 we will explore these further and start our project work. We will also hold a Young Vinnies Commissioning Mass for the new members during the term.

## **Altar Serving**

Thank you for bringing your children along when it is their turn to altar serve or bell ring at Sunday Mass, we appreciate people doing this and being on time. It is a great opportunity for us to live our faith and support our Parish community.



This was an impromptu acting scene from the year 8 children and myself to do with wearing the 'Thankfulness' glasses. Having fun is an important part of our daily lives and I am grateful for the joy my class gives me.

We have also recently discussed the importance of doing the right thing at the right time - or simply being on task when expected. As the children grow, their peer group becomes more influential to them. I appreciate that but have reset the expectation in our class that there is a time to play, chat and chill and there is a time to work hard on the task. Learning this is an important skill and one that I will be continuing to guide the children on during term 3.

Have a restful holiday break everyone.

Geraldine Duncan.

## **Board of Trustees**

The Board of Trustees will meet again in term 3 on Tuesday 10th Aug

## Notices and Dates:

<b>Week 10</b>	Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	Sunday Mass Altar Servers/Bell Ringers: Ryan, Elliot & Harry J
<b>Over Holidays</b>	Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	Sunday Mass Altar Servers/Bell Ringers: Eddie & Marley
	Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> July	Sunday Mass Altar Servers/Bell Ringers: Cyrus & Hayley
<b>Week 1</b>	Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> July	1 <sup>st</sup> Day of Term 3
	Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> July	Newsletter
	Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> August	Sunday Mass Altar Servers/Bell Ringers: Ben G & Toby
<b>Week 2</b>	Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> August	Sunday Mass Altar Servers/Bell Ringers: Billy
<b>Week 3</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup> August	NZ Maths Week
	Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> August	Sunday Mass Altar Servers/Bell Ringers: Georgia & Sam
<b>Week 6</b>	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> August	Maniototo Crosscountry
	Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> August	Postponement Day for Maniototo Crosscountry
<b>Week 7</b>		HPV #2 for Year 8 children
	Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> September	Wig Wednesday
	Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> September	Otago Cross Country
<b>Week 8</b>	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> September	The Gathering of Catholic Teachers

